(c) On the consideration of Expert Committee recommendations, Government of India has enhanced the income limit for determining the creamy layer amongst OBCs from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

(d) and (e) The basis for determining the creamy layer among the OBCs vary from State to State and the States formulate their own guidelines to determine the creamy layer among the OBCs.

Hostels for SC and OBC Girls

3154. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hostels constructed with Central assistance for girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes and OBCs to enable them to pursue higher education, during the last five years ending the 31st March, 2006; and

(b) the places where such hostels were constructed and the investment made for the purpose during the period with the number of students who can be accommodated there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The number of hostels sanctioned, for providing hostels facilities for girls belonging to SCs and OBCs during the last five years ending the 31st March, 2006 is as under:—

Items	Girls Hostels for SCs	Girls Hostels for OBCs
No. of Hostels sanctioned	504	192

The hostels facilities provided under two separate schemes covering these target groups are expected to enable the SC and OBC boys and Girls to pursue education in middle school, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities.

(b) The places and construction sites are selected by the State Governments/Implementing Agencies including universities and the NGOs.

The details of Central investments made and capacity of hostels constructed during last five years are as follows:—

Items	Girls hostels for SCs	Girls hostels for OBCs
Investment through Central share (Rs. in crores)	101.55	21.52
No. of students that can be accommodated	36922	13033

Reservation in jobs in private sector

3155. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for job reservation in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to implement above proposal;

(c) whether Confederation of Indian Industries has proposed a task force to empower disadvantaged sections of society other than mandatory quota in job reservation in private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the proposed year, if any, for implementation of job reservation in private sector?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the commitment contained in National Common Minimum Programme (NCPM), a Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation in private sector, and to initiate a dialogue with industry to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of youth belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) and (d) It is learnt that Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has constituted a Task Force on affirmative action with the following terms of reference:—

(i) To identify scope and opportunity for intervention by industry;

(ii) To draw up a specific action plan to realize this opportunity; and